

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2008

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

As you know, we have been working to see that the dedicated Cold War warriors who worked at the nation's nuclear weapons production facilities—such as the Rocky Flats facility in Colorado—are given the compensation they are owed for any physical harms they have experienced from working at these facilities. We have been exceedingly frustrated with the slow pace and resistance of providing these benefits.

This week, the Rocky Mountain News printed a three-part series on the plight of these workers and the serious mismanagement of this program. As these series of stories highlight, these workers have faced numerous obstacles and indifference by the Department of Labor concerning their claims. Enclosed is a copy of these articles.

We are especially disappointed to read in these stories that the reporter failed to get a response from the Department of Labor concerning the claims made and the plight of these deserving individuals. We find it completely unacceptable for the Department of Labor to fail to respond for over three months to request by a major media outlet to respond to this story.

Federal agencies are established to serve the taxpayer and be accountable to them for decisions regarding programs within an agency's responsibility. It is simply not acceptable to not respond to requests to explain decisions made regarding this program.

We strongly request that you respond to the specific issues addressed in this newspaper series. The people who toiled in dangerous conditions at the facilities to help secure our nation deserve no less.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress